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SUBJECT: GOJ WHITE PAPER ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR JFY 1975

1. SUMMARY: THE ANNUAL WHITE PAPER ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COVERING PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL 1975 AND MARCH 1976, ISSUED BY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (STA) NOV. 12, REVIEWS POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN, DISCUSSES ITS CONSEQUENCES, BOTH FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE, THE EMPHASIZES NEED FOR EXPANDED ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOLVING MYRIAD OF SOCIETAL PROBLEMS. IT ALSO REVIEWS R&D ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY INDUSTRY, UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH LABS DURING JFY 1975 AND GOVERNMENT MEASURES TAKEN TO PROMOTE R&D. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM STA A COPY OF JAPANESE- LANGUAGE REPORT TITLED QTE WHITE PAPER ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 UQTE. IT HAS SUB-TITLE QTE AIMING AT TECHNOOGICAL INNOVATION IN AREA OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNQTE. THE WHITE PAPER WAS PUBLISHED BY STA WITH CABINET APPROVAL NOV. 12.

3. THE 452-PAGE REPORT CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS. PART 1 REVIEWS POST-WAR PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES GEARED TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH, DISCUSSES THEIR CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING NATIONAL LIFE FAVORABLY AND UNFAVORABLY, AND STRESSES NEED FOR EXPANDING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOLVING A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING UNCLASSIFIED

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JAPANESE SOCIETY. QTE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNQTE REPEATEDLY

REFERRED TO IN REPORT APPARENTLY MEANS IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH WELFARE, MEDICAL CARE, ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TRAFFIC, DISASTER PREVENTION, AND SAFETY PROGRAMS. IN DISCUSSING THE NEED TO EXPAND THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOLVING PROBLEMS AFFECTING JAPAN'S WAY OF LIFE, WHITE PAPER STRESSED THE NEED FIRST TO DEFINE AND CLARIFY THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATING TO PARTICULAR AREAS; SECONDLY, TO EXPAND R&D ACTIVITIES AT GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARILY TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN IMPROVING MEDICAL CARE, ENSURING SAFETY OF FOODS AND DRUGS, PREVENTING DISASTERS, AND SO ON; THIRDLY, TO DRAW UPON TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPMENT OF HARDWARE AND SYSTEMS; AND FINALLY, TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS BETWEEN R&D PERFORMERS AND USERS FOR EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS.

4. PART 2 OF REPORT DISCUSSES RECENT TRENDS IN R&D ACTIVITIES, S&T INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, TECHNOLOGY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES. PART 3 DEALS WITH MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN TERMS OF BUDGETARY, INSTITUTIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS. IN THESE PARTS, WHITE PAPER NOTED THAT AS OF APRIL 1975 THE NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN JAPAN TOTALLED 255,000, AN INCREASE OF 7.1 PERCENT OVER JFY 1974 AND THAT R&D EXPENDITURE INVESTED BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY AMOUNTED TO YEN 2,421,400 MILLION (APPROX. DOLLAR 8,000 MILLION), PUTTING JAPAN FOURTH BEHIND THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, AND WEST GERMANY. ALTHOUGH THIS AMOUNT REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 22.2 PER CENT OVER JFY 1973, REAL R&D SPENDING STOOD AT 114 AGAINST 100 IN JFY 1970 AND 116 IN JFY 1973, WHEN INFLATION IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. JAPAN'S R&D EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTED FOR 2.15 PER CENT OF NATIONAL INCOME IN JFY 1974, COMPARED WITH 4.66 PER CENT IN THE SOVIET UNION, 2.74 PER CENT IN WEST GERMANY AND 2.52 PER CENT IN THE U.S. WHITE PAPER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PRIVATE SECTOR SHARED 73.5 PERCENT AND GOVERNMENT 26.5 PERCENT OF R&D EXPENDITURE, AND STRESSED THE NEED TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT SHARE OF RESEARCH SPENDING IN VIEW OF EXPANDING ROLE OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN PERFORMING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT-RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

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5. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF THE WHITE PAPER IS BEING PREPARED BY STA. EMBASSY WILL TRANSMIT COPIES OF THE ENGLISH VERSION TO THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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